

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the Specification

Please substitute the following amended paragraph(s) and/or section(s) (deleted matter is shown by strikethrough and added matter is shown by underlining):

Paragraph 0034:

Referring now to FIGS. 2 and 3, each horizontal, preformed block 30 includes a front member 32, a rear member 42, opposing sides 44a, 46a, a top 50 and a bottom 60. The front member 32 includes a viewable surface 34 having a predetermined texture and finish. ~~Since the viewable surface 34 does not form part of the invention, it will not be discussed in detail.~~ As mentioned above, it is understood that the viewable surface 34 may be provided with other textures and finishes, as desired. The front member 32 also includes a rearwardly facing back surface 36 in spaced relation from the viewable surface 34, with the back surface 36 including stop surfaces 38, 40. As will be discussed later, the stop surfaces 38, 40 enable adjacent courses of blocks to be operatively connected to each other.

Paragraph 0036:

Referring again to FIGS. 2 and 3, each horizontal block includes a rear member 42 having opposing sides 44b, 46b, interior surfaces 48a, an exterior surface 48b, a top 50, and a bottom 60. Rear member 42 is held in spaced relation from the front member 32 by a web 74. The web 74 includes opposing sides 76, 78, an upper surface 80 and a lower surface 82. ~~As with the viewable surface 34, the rear member 42 and opposing sides 44b, 46b will not be discussed~~

~~in detail~~. With regard to FIG. 2, the top 50 of the block includes top support surfaces 52, 54 that are configured to operatively contact bottom support surfaces 62, 64 of overlying courses of blocks (See, FIGS. 6-9). The top 50 of the block 30 also includes a recess 56 that extends downwardly from the upper surface 80 of the web 74, and downwardly relative to the top support surfaces 52, 54. The recess 56 includes a stop surface 58 that is in alignment with the stop surfaces 38, 40 of the back surface 36 of the block 30. Together, these stop surfaces 38, 40 and 56, extend substantially along the entire width of the block 30 and greatly expand the operative connection range available to a practitioner. Preferably, the stop surfaces 38, 40, and 58 will be located a certain, fixed distance measured from a feature common to all of the blocks, such as the viewable surface 34. The bottom 60 of the block 30 includes corresponding bottom support surfaces 62, 64 that are configured to operatively contact top support surfaces of underlying courses of blocks (See, FIGS. 6-9). The bottom 60 of the block 30 includes a projection 66 that constitutes the other part of the operative connection between adjacent courses of blocks. The projection 66 extends downwardly from the lower surface 82 of the web 74 and downwardly relative to the bottom support surfaces 62, 64. The projection 66 includes an indexing surface 68 that is configured to operatively contact the stop surface(s) of an adjacent course of blocks. As will be described later in greater detail, the indexing surface 68 differs from the stop surfaces in that there are a plurality of fixed distances measured from a feature common to all of the blocks, such as the viewable surface 34, at which an indexing surface 68 may be located.

Paragraph 0038:

Referring now to FIGS. 4 and 5, each vertical, preformed block 90 includes a front member 92, a rear member 100, opposing sides 102, 104, a top 110 and a bottom 120. The front

member 92 includes a viewable surface 94 having a predetermined texture and finish. ~~As with the viewable surface 34 of the horizontal block of FIGS. 2 and 3, the viewable surface 94 of the vertical block 90 does not form part of the invention, it will not be discussed in detail.~~ However, it is understood that the viewable surface 94 may be provided with other textures and finishes, as desired. The front member 92 also includes a rearwardly facing portion 96 in spaced relation from the viewable surface 94, with the rearwardly facing portion 96 including a stop surface 98. As will be discussed later, the stop surface 98 enables adjacent courses of blocks to be operatively connected to each other.

Paragraph 0040:

Referring again to FIGS. 4 and 5, each vertical block 90 includes a rear member 100 that is held in spaced relation from the front member 92 by upper and lower webs 106, 108, respectively, and opposing sides 102, 104. ~~As with the viewable surface 94, the rear member 100 and opposing sides 102, 104 will not be discussed in detail.~~ With regard to FIG. 4, the top 110 of the block 90 includes top support surfaces 112, 114 that are configured to operatively contact bottom support surfaces of overlying courses of blocks (See, FIGS. 6-9). The top 110 of the block 90 also includes a recess 116 that extends downwardly relative to the top support surfaces 112, 114 and which includes a stop surface 118 that is coincident with the stop surface 98 of the rearwardly facing portion 96. As can be seen in FIGS. 4 and 5, the stop surface 98 (or alternatively 118 in this particular instance) extends along the entire width of the block 90. Preferably, the stop surface 98 will be located a certain, fixed distance measured from a feature common to all of the blocks, such as the viewable surface 94. The bottom 120 of the block 90 includes corresponding bottom support surfaces 122, 124 that are configured to operatively contact top support surfaces of underlying courses of blocks (See, FIGS. 6-9). The bottom 120 of

the block 90 includes a projection 126 that constitutes the other part of the operative connection between adjacent courses of blocks. The projection 126 also extends downwardly relative to the bottom support surfaces 122, 124 and includes an indexing surface 128 that is configured to operatively contact the stop surface(s) of an adjacent course of blocks. As will be described later in greater detail, the indexing surface 128 differs from the stop surface in that there are a plurality of fixed distances measured from a feature common to all of the blocks, such as the viewable surface 94, at which an indexing surface 128 may be located.